Review of DRDO

1523. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have again reviewed the functioning of the Defence Research and Development Organisation to evalate the progress of various projects undertaken by the Organisation, including Trishual missile, the artillery location radar, the Arjun tank, etc;

(b) if so, the result thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that while the DRDO budgets havegrown exponentially, the Armed Forces were forced to do without products due to long delays or they did not perform as per the claims of DRDO, as per needs of the Armed forces; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to restructure or overhaul the DRDO?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government have not, particularly, reviewed the functioning of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). However the projects and programmes of DRDO are subjected to review regularly by committees, inviting experts from outside the Organisation. These are reviewed by various authorities including Programme Management Board, Guided Missile Board, Defence R&D Board, etc.

(c) No Sir. Increase in DRDO budget, in money terms, has been barely off setting the inflation. There have been some delays in completion of projects and programmes due to various reasons *viz.* technological complexities, embargoes and sanctions imposed by technologically advanced countries lack of availability of infrastructure in the country, extended and long user trails, mid-stream change in user requirements, etc. Users have always been kept informed about the status of the projects and programmes. However, Services have acquired the weapons systems based on their operational requirements from other sources also.

(d) DRDO with its limited strength cannot meet the entire range of weapons system, needed by the Armed Forces. Armed Forces are also equipped with weapon systems source from other countries.